

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 13, 2008, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 9, 34, 41 and 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 9, 34, 41 and 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). With this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 5, 34, 52 and 54 and adds claims 56-59. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6, 9, 34, 41 and 52-59 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-6, 9, 34, 41 and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that it is not clear from the claims whether the information modules are established for the intended purpose to control project planning or whether project planning is controlled by establishing information modules. However, Applicant has rewritten claims 34, 52 and 54 to depend directly from claim 1 and removed all repetitive features in claims 34, 52 and 54 to create proper antecedent basis. Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention by inserting the phrase "activating at least two or more information modules to store and control information." Applicant has also amended claim 1 by inserting the term "information" to clarify that the electronic collaboration center is an information module. In addition, Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly clarify the meaning of a "collaboration" as it is claimed in Applicant's invention. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the instant rejection of independent claim 1, and claims 2-6, 34, 41, 52-55 which depend from claim 1, has been overcome.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 9, 34, 41 and 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,845) in view of Jenkins (U.S. Patent No. 7,213,030) and Knudson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,765,140). However, Applicant is construing the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections as if the Examiner

had rejected the claims as unpatentable over Jenkins in view of Cohen and Knudson since the Examiner's detailed explanations are consistent with this interpretation.

For the reasons set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 9, 34, 41 and 52-55 include features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references for the reasons posed by the Examiner. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 2-6, 34, 41, 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contends that the combination of Jenkins in view of Cohen and Knudson teaches all of the features of the claimed invention.

Specifically, the Examiner contends that Jenkins teaches an interactive computer method for managing a project comprising the steps of establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system, activating at least two or more information modules to control at least two or more of project planning, allowing access to documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings, requesting information, reporting project data, and controlling changes to project documents, defining authorized individuals who have access to the interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project and creating an electronic collaboration center as one of the information modules on the computer system.

However, firstly, it is respectfully submitted that Jenkins does not teach an interactive computer method for managing at least one project. The management system in Jenkins is limited to managing simplistic tasks or matters within a project rather than managing the project in its entirety. Further, the Examiner cites Figure 2a in Jenkins along with the disclosure associated with Figure 2a to state that the management system in Jenkins establishes a plurality of information modules. The information modules in Applicant's invention control, at a minimum, project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to documents and information in any module, providing

issue resolution, reviewing project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings, requesting information, reporting project data, and controlling changes to project documents. Figure 2a shows a flow chart of how to add clients, users or matters to the system which do not have the capability to control the several aforementioned functions like the information modules do in Applicant's invention.

In addition, Jenkins does not teach creating an electronic collaboration as one of the modules on the computer system. The collaboration center in Applicant's invention as defined in claim 1 and claims 2-6, 34, 41, 52-55 depending therefrom, provides a computerized place for organizing, displaying and updating status on a project issue. Applicant's collaboration center summarizes, organizes, manages and displays all the pertinent information for a project issue relating to a collaboration in one centralized area. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Jenkins lacks a collaboration center having the features set forth in claim 1, and claims 2-6, 34, 41, 52-55 which depend therefrom.

Secondly, the Examiner also contends that Jenkins in view of Cohen teaches capability for determining access to the collaboration center by the authorized individuals, defining at least one collaboration in the collaboration center, the at least one collaboration including a collaboration leader and at least one of a collaboration summary, a collaboration status, and a collaboration status statement, allowing the collaboration leader to modify at least one of the collaboration summary, the collaboration status and the collaboration status statement, and accepting input information at the collaboration center from the authorized individuals to facilitate resolution of a project issue related to the collaboration.

However, Jenkins in view of Cohen is devoid of a collaboration center having the features set forth in claim 1, and claims 2-6, 34, 41, 52-55 which depend therefrom. Applicant's collaboration center summarizes, organizes, manages and displays all the pertinent information for a project issue relating to a collaboration in one

centralized area by providing a collaboration leader, a collaboration topic, a collaboration status and at least one of a collaboration summary and a collaboration status statement. The leader can update the high level summarization so that users may quickly receive a sustained and meaningful status without clicking through an abundance of information, most of which is not pertinent to their perspective or interest in the project issue. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Jenkins in view of Cohen lacks any teaching of a collaboration leader, collaboration topic, a collaboration status, collaboration summary, or collaboration status statement having the features set forth in claim 1, and claims 2-6, 34, 41, 52-55 which depend therefrom.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Jenkins in view of Cohen and Knudson fails to anticipate or render obvious all of the features of Applicant's invention as set forth in claims in claim 1, and claims 2-6, 34, 41, 52-55 which depend therefrom.

Applicant has also submitted new dependent claims 56-59. The last four steps of former independent claim 52 have been deleted and moved to new dependent claim 57. It is respectfully submitted that claims 56-59 patentably define over the cited references in view of their direct and indirect dependency from claim 1 and all of the arguments previously made in support of patentability for claim 1.

Claim 1 has also been amended to broaden its scope by replacing "a project" with "at least one project" and to replace "interactive computer system" with "interactive computer software system" In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to correct a syntactical period error.

Claim 5 has been amended to broaden its scope to include maintaining and displaying of the collaboration summary and collaboration status statement in addition to the collaboration status.

In summary, for the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in the claims includes features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references on the grounds posed by the

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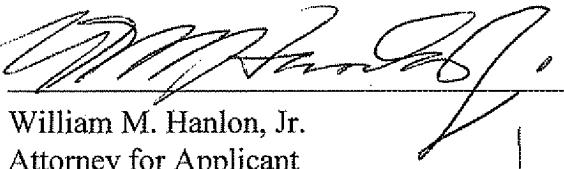
Examiner. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 9, 34, 41 and 52-59 are in condition for allowance.

It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG BASILE HANLON
MacFARLANE & HELMHOLDT, P.C.



William M. Hanlon, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28422
248-649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Road
Suite 624
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107
WMH/NNM